

## Message Text

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TAGS: SGEN

SUBJ: 24TH COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT--REPORT ON  
THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION (ITEM 8), INITIAL PHASE

1. SUMMARY: AT SUGGESTION OF CHAIRMAN, CSD COMBINED CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 8, REPORT ON THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION, AND ITEM 9, MID-TERM REVIEW AND APPRAISAL, IN VIEW OF THEIR INTER-RELATEDNESS. DUE TO LATENESS OF DOCUMENTS, CSD FIRST CONSIDERED GLOBAL OVERVIEW DOCUMENT AND SECTORAL REPORTS ON SOCIAL SITUATION, TAKING UP REGIONAL DOCUMENTS LATER. AFTER FOUR SESSIONS, CSD PROCEEDED TO NEXT AGENDA ITEM PENDING RESUMPTION OF THIS SUBJECT TO CONSIDER RESOLUTION TO BE CIRCULATED BY CHAIR. END SUMMARY.

2. IN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT DOROTHY WALTERS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE, DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES, CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, PROJECTIONS AND POLICIES, NOTED THAT 1974 REPORT ON WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION IS EIGHTH REPORT SINCE 1952 AND FIRST TO COVER FOUR-YEAR PERIOD, AND IS IN SOME WAYS A COMPLEMENT TO ANNUAL WORLD ECONOMIC SURVEY. EMPHASIZING THE INTER-RELATEDNESS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, CONTAINING BOTH QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENTS, THE GLOBAL OVERVIEW OR INTRODUCTORY DOCUMENT TREATS MAJOR TRENDS AND PROVIDES AN ANALYSIS THEREOF. SECTORAL REPORTS TREAT COMPARABLE SUBJECTS SUCH AS DEMOGRAPHY, EMPLOYMENT, INCOME DISTRIBUTION, AND MINORITIES WITHIN EACH REGION, AND CLEARLY SHOW PREVALENCE OF MASS POVERTY IN THE DEVELOPING

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COUNTRIES. WALTERS NOTED IMPORTANCE OF REPORT FOR REVIEW AND

APPRAISAL, SUGGESTING THAT, AT MID-TERM, REPORT HAD TWO USES: TO ASSESS ACTUAL PROGRESS TO ACHIEVE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND TO ASSESS NEED FOR NEW OR REVISED GOALS. ACCORDING TO REPORT, PROGRESS ACHIEVED HAS BEEN MIXED AND VARIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES, LEADING TO TWO GENERAL CONCLUSIONS: THE NEED FOR AN EXPLICIT COMMITMENT TO THE STRATEGY AND THE DECLARATION ON SOCIAL PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE SOCIAL POLICY-MAKING PROCESS, WITH THE ATTENDANT SETTING OF OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS. WITH RESPECT TO SETTING NEW GOALS, REPORT INDICATES NEED FOR EMPHASIS ON SPECIFIC TARGETS AT NATIONAL LEVEL, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF OFFD, POPULATION, AND ENVIRONMENT. IN COMMENTING ON OPENING STATEMENT, CHAIRMAN (NAQVI) NOTED THAT REVISION OF STRATEGY NOT AN ITEM BEFORE CSD.

3. IN SPITE OF GENERAL EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET OVER LATENESS OF DOCUMENTS AND POOR OR OUTDATED STATISTICS, REPORT WAS FAVORABLY VIEWED BY MAJORITY OF DELS.

4. ITALY, NOTING THAT DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE FULLY UTILIZED IN UNIFIED APPROACH TO BALANCE EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SUGGESTED THAT REPORT INDICATES NEED FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL ACTION, ALTHOUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL POLICY IS A NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, PERHAPS FOLLOWING GUIDELINES SUGGESTED BY UN. ITALY SAW REPORT AS USEFUL TOOL TO ASSESS WORK THUS FAR DONE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TO DEFINE WORK PROGRAM, AND AS A CONTRIBUTION TO CONTINUED CONSIDERATION OF FEASIBILITY OF ELABORATING CONVENTION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

5. UK DEL APPROVED ECONOMIC THEME RUNNING THROUGHOUT REPORT, DEcriED LACK OF SOCIAL STATISTICS, AND CALLED FOR BUILDING CAPACITY FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

6. IN LOW-KEY AND GENERALLY UNCRITICAL INTERVENTION, USSR COMPLAINED OF LATENESS OF DOCUMENTS, BUT RECOGNIZED DIFFICULTY OF COMPILING THEM. HE NOTED THAT REPORT WAS ALREADY OUT OF DATE, ESPECIALLY AS IT OVERLOOKED ECONOMIC CRISIS IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES THAT HAD DELETERIOUS AFFECT ON SOCIAL CONDITIONS. HE NOTED THAT METHODOLOGY OF REPORT TENDED TO ATTRIBUTE CONDITIONS IN SOME COUNTRIES TO WHOLE REGIONS, OFTEN DISTORTING SITUATION IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HE FURTHER OBSERVED THAT REPORT WAS SILENT

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ON POLITICAL SITUATION IN WORLD, NOTING THAT DETENTE HAS BENEFICIAL AFFECT ON SOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND SHOULD BE REFLECTED. IN LATER INTERVENTIONS, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, GDR, AND UKRAINE CONTINUED THEME OF INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOCIALIST STATES, WITH UKRAINE PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF REPORT AND NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT RES ON NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER ADOPTED BY SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF GA.

7. IN MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE INTERVENTION, US REP (PICKER) CONGRATULATED SECT FOR IMPRESSIVE JOB OF PRODUCING REPORT FROM INPUT OF MAY SOURCES, NOTING ITS QUALITY WAS INDICATION OF SUCCESSFUL TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORT TO CDPPP. NOTING THAT GLOBAL OVERVIEW PAPER EMPHASIZED INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, US REP REGRETTED PAUCITY OF CURRENT STATISTICS AND CALLED FOR INCLUSION OF SOCIAL STATISTICS IN CDPPP DATA BANK. OBSERVING THAT REPORT HAD PRIMARY VALUE FOR MID-TERM REVIEW AND APPRAISAL, US REP NOTED THAT FIRST REVIEW AND APPRAISAL CONDUCTED IN 1973 GAVE RELATIVELY SHORT SHRIFT TO SOCIAL PROGRESS REPORTING AND VAGUENESS OF CONCEPTS FOR MEASURING SOCIAL PROGRESS. ALSO, MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RELUCTANT TO FEATURE SOCIAL CONCERNS IN REVIEW AND APPRAISAL PROCESS, POSSIBLY VIEWING EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AS POTENTIAL THREAT TO INDUSTRIALIZATION. US REP EXPRESSED HOPE THAT REPORT WOULD ENCOURAGE COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN MID-TERM REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

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